

ARUBA ESSO NEWS

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Lago Hospital Wing Completed

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entirely for internal medicine and isolation cases. Located on the west side of the wing is a closed-off isolation ward. The third floor is entirely for obstetrics and gynecology and includes nurseries.

Emergency Precautions

One of the many important factors of the new quarters is the preparation that has gone into the building in the event of any emergency. Considering fire first, the new building is completely fire resistant. Fire alarms are conveniently and conspicuously located throughout. If the alarm is thrown, a red light blinks at the information desk alerting the clerk stationed there at all times. In addition to the red blinking light, a gong sounds at constant intervals that through specific codes locate in what section of the building the alarm was sounded. Hospital staff members know immediately where the trouble is through the code system and can act without loss of time. Also on the automatic system are two smoke doors located on each of the three floors. When the alarm is thrown, these smoke doors automatically close protecting the corridors and patients from smoke. Exits are clearly marked by large red globes to eliminate possible confusion. Fire escapes are located at each end of the building. The west side fire escape is entirely enclosed while the escape on the east side has an open front.

The new quarters will never be without electricity. The hospital is on a two-feeder system. In the event electricity is cut off on one feeder, the other automatically goes into operation. If both feeders cut off — which is almost impossible — an automatic electric system generated by a unit located in the hospital's boiler room immediately supplies necessary power. To further safeguard a continuing supply of electric power from the 75 KVA gasoline generator at the hospital, at the instant this auxiliary power cuts in a red light flashes at the information desk. The alerted clerk at the desk then calls Utilities and a man is dispatched to the hospital where he

stands by at the generator until electricity is supplied through one of the main feeder lines again.

Auxiliary Power

When the auxiliary power unit at the hospital is in use it supplies power to an emergency system throughout the hospital which governs call lights, clocks, outlets, the elevator on the west side of the new quarters, necessary lights, and other electrical fixtures needed to conduct normal hospital activity. All elements on the emergency system are identified by small red squares located on the various fixtures.

When entering the new quarters, the visitor finds himself entering a bright, modern lobby. The east and west sides of the lobby are enclosed by panels of plate glass. The information desk, where visitors must register before entering patients' rooms, is in the lobby as is the telephone switchboard. Just outside the lobby — on the west side — a sun deck for convalescing patients has been provided.

The entrance to the first floor — pediatric and surgery cases — is directly off the main lobby on the north side. On the second and third floors, the main corridors lead from smaller lobbies. The main lobby and those on the next two floors are attractively furnished for the convenience of visitors. The upper levels of the new quarters may be reached either by elevator or stairs.

Basically, the three floors are the same in location of rooms, porches, utility rooms, nurses' desks and lavatories. They differ only where hospital demands for a smoothly functioning plant make it necessary. An isolation ward has been placed on the second floor, and the design of the third is necessarily different to accommodate obstetrical cases from the time the mother enters the hospital until she leaves with her baby.

All patients' rooms are equipped exactly the same. Each bed has a bedside table and an overbed table and individual lighting. A patient reading in bed may avail himself of either direct or indirect lighting simply by flicking a switch located on the wall above the bed. Located at each bed is a signal to call the nurse.

New Visiting Procedure Formed

A new procedure has been established for visitors. Upon entering the hospital, visitors will be required to check in at the information desk in the main lobby. The information clerk will issue each visitor a card authorizing him to visit. Visitors will not be allowed in the patients' quarters without a guest card. Each patient is allowed two visitors at a time

plus family members. These cards are to be returned to the information desk when leaving the hospital.

The visiting hours of the new quarters will be the same as previously set up for the old quarters. Adults may be visited from 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Children may be visited from 2 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m.

The signal lights a panel at the nurse's desk indicating the location of the call. All rooms have straight chairs, easy chairs and an ottomans. Each room has ample built-in closet space and a private bathroom with shower, as well as toilet facilities. The rooms' floors are black and white composition tile. The walls are finished in a cool-green-colored paint.

All Rooms Comfortable

Being located on the windward side of the new quarters, all patients' rooms are comfortably cool and pleasantly bright. Glass windows let in the day's light — direct glaring rays of the sun will not disturb patients, however, thanks to the red awning stripe the length of the building over the windows. Letting in the breeze are louvers above the glass, and window-box ventilators below the window. An air tunnel, constructed above the corridor, carries the breeze from the rooms on the windward side to the offices, utilities rooms and the like on the leeward side.

An interesting side note is the manner in which the Medical Department has furnished the children's rooms in the pediatric section. The cribs are high to facilitate nurse care of the children. The children's bathrooms are all junior size to handle the wants of the younger set. Little bath tubs are located in these rooms with a built-in seat for the youthful bathers.

In addition to the various types of identical rooms on each floor, a small serving kitchen and enclosed porch also make up a section of each floor plan. The porches are for patients' relaxation. The present Section E of the old quarters will become the main kitchen for the entire hospital. Food for the new quarters will be prepared there and transported in electrically heated units to the various floors. Two dumbwaiters run up through the three stories to carry food and medicinal supplies.

The corridors on the three floors are the same in design, color and location. The corridor walls are grey; the flooring is red composition tile and the ceilings are all soundproof. Doors opening from the corridors are

four-feet wide for ease in moving beds and equipment. Also located off the corridors on each floor are toilet facilities for staff members and visitors.

Isolation Ward

Located on the west side of the second floor is the isolation ward. It is made up of three rooms and a utility room. The three isolation rooms for patients have large plate glass windows set in the doors allowing visitors in this section to see the patients.

For mothers-to-be, new mothers, and new arrivals, the obstetrical section on the third floor is complete from pins and diapers to large sterilizing and delivery equipment. The labor rooms and the delivery rooms are located side-by-side with connecting doors. This positioning enables expectant mothers to be taken directly into the delivery from the labor room without entering the corridor. The labor rooms and the delivery room are located on the sea-side of the wing.

Delivery Section

The delivery section takes up the far west end of the third floor. It is complete in itself. The section is prepared to handle any possible emergency that may arise during delivery. At no time will this section have to call on other facilities of the hospital. The delivery room is a large bright room. All electrical switches and outlets are the safety type to safeguard the room's occupants when anesthesia is used. Also located in the delivery section is a room for the obstetricians, who, anticipating a night delivery, may sleep there. The delivery section is closed to all but the hospital staff.

On the leeward side of the west end of the third floor are the nurseries. For the convenience of proud fathers, large plate glass windows overlook the nurseries for "papa's first look." A small incubator room also has a plate glass window for viewing the little tots resting there. Connecting the two nurseries is a large workroom for the nurses' use in caring for the new arrivals.